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BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF NORTH KOREAN CULTURAL LEADERS

Chokch'i Yukyon U1 Pukhan Mundan (North Korean
Literary World Under Six Years of Red Rule)
Pusan, 25 Mar 1952

Hyon Su

[Comment: The following biographical sketches of the North Korean cultural leaders were taken from a South Korean publication.

The information, where available, includes: occupation, membership in literary or political organizations, previous positions, literary or art works, prizes and awards, and personal information.

This report includes two so-called "independent" cultural leaders, Kwang Hak-kun and Yang Myong-mun, who, according to the author, have not accepted Communism, but who are allowed to remain in North Korea because of the shortage of cultural leaders.]

An Ham-kwang 安含光

Critic; editor, Munhak Yesul (Literature and Art) [a monthly periodical]; chairman, North Korean Literary League; organized the Hwanghae-do District Proletarian Art League, 1945; director, Internal Affairs Bureau, Hwanghae-do People's Committee, 1945; chief, Printing Section, Culture Department, Korean Communist Party, 1946.

Al. K'we-nam 安懷南

Writer; member, Seoul Central Council for Cultural Construction; fled to North Korea; war correspondent, 1950.

An Mak 安漠

Poet; vice-chairman, North Korean Federation of Literature and Art, 1945; husband of Ch'oe Sung-hi.

An Yong-man 安龍灣

Poet; helped to organize the P'yongan-pukto District Proletarian Art League, 1945; wrote poems Tongji eui Honsa (Words Dedicated to Comrades) and Apkang Chigu (Yalu River Area), 1948.

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Cho Ki-ch'on 趙基天

Poet; born in 1907 or 1908; Soviet Korean; editor, Choson Sinmun; reported to be the first Korean to become a member of the Soviet Writers League, 1949; his poems Paektu-san (Paektu Mountain) won first prize at the 1947 Art Festival, Uri ui Kil (Our Way) won first prize at the 1948 Art Festival, and Hangjang ui Yosu (Defense of Yosu) won first prize at the 1949 Art Festival.

Cho Pyok-am 趙碧岩

Writer; fled to North Korea; war correspondent, 1950.

Cho Yong-ch'ul 趙靈出

Composer; member, Seoul Central Council for Cultural Construction; fled to North Korea; war correspondent, 1950.

Ch'oe In-chun 崔仁俊

Writer; organized the Kangwon-do District Proletarian Art League, 1945.

Ch'oe Myong-ik 崔明翊

Novelist; president, P'yongyang Society of Art and Culture, 1945; member of a provincial assembly; fled to Kangye, 1950; wrote Sinmun (Rippling Soul), Changsam Yisa (Ordinary Person), Kigye (Machine), Kongdunp'ul (Wandering Grass), and Maegyong (Wheat Range).

Ch'oe Sung-hi 崔承喜

Dancer; director, Ch'oe Sung-hi Dance School; wife of An Mak.

Chon Chae-kyol 田在耕

Writer; member, P'yongyang Society of Art and Culture, 1945; chief, Culture Section, P'yongan-namdo People's Committee, 1946; director, Broadcasting Bureau, [North Korean People's Committee] 1946; war correspondent, 1950; wrote novel Chido (Map), 1946.

Chon Tong-hyok 田東赫

Writer; employed by Choson Sinmun; Soviet Korean.

Ch'on Ch'ong-song 千青松

Novelist; organized Hamgyong-pukto District Proletarian Art League, 1945.

Ch'on Se-pong 千世鳳

Novelist.

Chong Chi-su 鄭志樹

Dancer; director, Chong Chi-su Dance School, 1946.

Chong Kwan-ch'ol 鄭寬徹

Artist; member, P'yongyang Society of Art and Culture, 1945.

Chong Mun-hyang 鄭文鄉

Poet; made debut at 1948 Art Festival.

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Chong Yul 鄭律

Poet; vice-chairman, North Korean Federation of Literature and Art.

Chu In-kyu 朱仁奎

Scenarist; director, State Motion Picture Studio; chairman, North Korean Theater and Motion Picture Committee, 1946.

Ham Se-tok 咸世德Playwright; fled to North Korea; member, North Korean People's Assembly; war correspondent, 1950; wrote play Sansaramdul (Mountain People); reported killed in action, 1950.Han Chae-tok 韓載德

Columnist; organized and became chairman, P'yongan-namdo District Proletarian Art League, 1945; chief, P'yongyang City Branch, North Korean Federation of Literature and Art, 1946.

Han Hyo 韓曉Critic; editor in chief, Puk Choson T'ongsin [a monthly periodical]; editor in chief, T'usa Sinmun, relative of Han Sol-ya.Han Min 韓民

Playwright.

Han Myong-ch'on 韓鳴泉Poet; wrote poem Puk Kando (Northern Chientao).Han Pong-sik 韓鳳植Writer; employed by Choson Sinmun.Han Si-kyong 韓時炯

Composer; member, P'yongyang Society of Art and Culture; 1945.

Han Sik 韓植

Helped to organize the Hamgyong-namdo District Proletarian Art League.

Han Sol-ya 韓雪野Marxist writer; helped to organize the Hamgyong-namdo District Proletarian Art League, 1945; chief, Cultured People's Department, Korean Communist Party; director, Education Bureau, North Korean People's Committee, 1946; chairman, North Korean Federation of Literature and Art, 1948; wrote novel Moja (Hat), which was suspended from publication [no date given]; wrote accounts of his travel to USSR which was censored [by the North Korean government] and a short story Orin Kigwansa (Young Locomotive Engineer).

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Han T'ae-ch'on 韓泰泉

Playwright; taught grade school; member, P'yongyang Society of Art and Culture, 1945; chief secretary, P'yongan-namdo Branch, North Korean Federation of Literature and Art, 1946; war correspondent, 1950 wrote plays: Pau (Rock), Samsipyon Manui Oech'ul (Stepping Out After 30 Years), Paektu-san, Taedongmaek (Main Artery), Ponghwa (Torchlight).

Ho Chun 許俊

Member, Central Council for Cultural Construction, Seoul; fled to North Korea.

Hong Sun-ch'ol 洪淳哲

Poet; editor in chief, Choguk T'ongil (Unification of the Fatherland) [The 1950 Choson Chungang Yongan shows Hong Sun-ch'ol as editor in chief of the Choguk Chonson, a daily newspaper]; deputy chief, Propaganda and Agitation Department, Korean Labor Party.

Hwang Ch'ol 黃徹

Actor; fled to North Korea; lost an arm in the Korean war.

Hwang Hak-kun 黃鶴根

Composer; member, P'yongyang Society of Art and Culture, 1945; known as an "independent" cultural leader; wrote operas Ch'unhyangjon (Ch'unhyang's Story), Ondal and about 50 others; wrote song Patkari Norae (Flowing Song) and composed several symphonies.

Hwang Kon 黃健

Writer; wrote novels T'anmaek (Coal Vein) and Sipnibol (Ten-li Field).

Hwang Sun-won 黃順元

Poet; member, P'yongyang Society of Art and Culture, 1945; wrote poem Pada (Sea).

Im Sun-tuk 任淳得

Writer; employed by Choson Sinmun.

Kang Hong-sik 姜弘植

Scenarist; wrote screen play Ch'osorul Chik'inun Saramdul (People Watching the Guard Post).

Kang Hyo-sun 姜孝淳

Musician; member, P'yongyang Society of Art and Culture, 1945.

Ki Sok-pok 奇石福

Editor in chief, Nodong Sinmun; Korean-Soviet.

Kim Chae-sop 金在燮

Vocalist; member, Korean Art Delegation to USSR, 1950; wounded in war, 1950.

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Kim Ch'ang-man 金昌滿

Playwright; chief, Culture Department, Korean Communist Party, 1946; wrote novel Kangjebyong (Conscript Soldier) in Yenan, China.

Kim Cho-kyu 金朝奎

Poet; member, P'yongyang Society of Art and Culture, 1945; member, North Korean Federation of Literature and Art; translator and censor, Choson Sinmun, 1946; professor, State Fine Arts College, 1948; war correspondent, 1950; wrote poem Tongbang Sosa (Eastern Epic).

Kim Ch'un-hui 金春姬

Poetess.

Kim Il-yong 金一龍

Soviet Korean.

Kim Min 金民

Poet; made debut at 1949 Art Festival.

Kim Min-u 金民友

Editor in chief, T'aep'ung (Typhoon) [a monthly periodical].

Kim Nam-ch'on 金南天

Organized the Central Council for Cultural Construction, Seoul; fled to North Korea; war correspondent, 1950

Kim Puk-won 金北原

Organized the Hamgyong-pukto District Proletarian Art League, 1945; war correspondent, 1950.

Kim Pyong-ki 金秉驥

Artist; member, P'yongyang Society of Art and Culture, 1945.

Kim Sa-yang 金史良

Novelist; chief, P'yongan-namdo Branch, North Korean Federation of Literature and Art, 1946; was most popular war correspondent, 1950; while in Yenan wrote a play Poktolli Ui Kunbok (Poktolli's Uniform): also wrote Hojop (Butterfly) and Ch'ilhyongum (Seven-String Harp) in 1949.

Kim Sang-o 金常午

Poet; assistant editor in chief, Minju Choson, 1949; his poem Uridulun Irok'e Ilgunda (Thus, We Read) won first prize at the 1949 Art Festival.

Kim So-wol 金素月

Lyric poet.

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Kim Sun-nam 金順南

Composer; fled to North Korea; wrote Inmin Hangaengga (People's Resistance Song), an opera Inmin Yugyoktae (People's Guerrilla), and piano concertos and numerous folk songs; was awarded the Culture Medal.

Kim Sun-sok 金舜石

Poet; member Korean Communist Party; wrote Chatnamu (Great Hooked Pine),

Kim Sung-ku 金承久

Playwright and scenarist; fled to North Korea; wrote play Ch'unhangjon (Ch'unhang's Story) and scenario Naegohyang (My Home Town) which was the first film produced in North Korea after the 1945 liberation.

Kim T'ae-chin 金兌鎭

Playwright; wrote the drama Yi Sun-sin Changgun (Admiral Yi Sun-sin) which won the first prize at the 1948 Art Festival; died, [date not given].

Kim Tong-chin 金東振

Composer; member, P'yongyang Society of Art and Culture, 1945.

Kim U-ch'ol 金友哲

Organized P'yongan-pukto District Proletarian Art League, 1945.

Kim Wan-u 金完羽

Musician; member, P'yongyang Society of Art and Culture, 1945.

Kim Won-kyun 金元均

Composer; member, Korean Communist Party; wrote music to Kim Il-song Changgun ui Norae (Song of General Kim Il-song) and Minch'onngwa (Democratic Youth Song); published Kim Won-kyun Chakkokchip (Kim Won-kyun's Music and wrote opera Chiri-san).

Kim Yong-kon 金永根

Scenarist; chief, Motion Picture Control Department, [Ministry of Culture and Propaganda]; wrote scenario for Yonggwangno (Blast Furnace), the second film produced in North Korea.

Kim Yu-song 金有聲

Musician; member, P'yongyang Society of Art and Culture, 1945.

Ko Il-hwan 高日煥

Chief, Culture Department, P'yongyang City Committee, Korean Communist Party, 1945; organized P'yongan-namdo District Proletarian Art League, 1945; chief, Culture Section, P'yongan-namdo People's Committee, 1946; employed by Choson Sinmun; North Korean Army captain, 1950.

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Min Pyong-kyun 閔兩均

Poet; employed by Choson Sinmun, 1946; chief secretary, North Korean Federation of Literature and Art, 1949; war correspondent, 1950; his poem Chaeryon-gang Pyon (Vicinity of Chaeryong River) won first prize at the 1947 Art Festival.

Mun Hak-su 文學洙

Artist; member, P'yongyang Society of Art and Culture, 1945.

Mun Ye-pong 文藝峰

Movie actress; fled to North Korea; entertained troops, 1950.

Namgung Man 南宮滿

Playwright; member, P'yongyang Society of Art and Culture, 1945; organized P'yongan-namdo District Proletarian Art League, 1945; war correspondent, 1950; wrote musicals and plays about the people's resistance against the South Korean government.

O Chang-hwan 吳章煥

Poet; member, Central Council for Cultural Construction, Seoul; fled to North Korea; visited the USSR; wrote poem Ch'anga (Hymn) which won first prize in the 1948 Art Festival.

Om Ho-sop 嚴浩爽

Critic.

Paek Mun-hwan 白文煥

Playwright; wrote play Songjang (Growth) which won prize at 1949 Art Festival.

Paek Sok 白石

Poet; translated Isakovskiy's poems.

Paek Un-pok 白雲福

Musician; member, P'yongyang Society of Art and Culture, 1945.

Pak Ch'ang-ok 朴昌玉

Chief, Propaganda and Agitation Department, Korean Labor Party, 1949; Soviet Korean.

Pak Chong-sik 朴宗載

Poet and critic; professor, Kim Il-song University.

Pak Chong-ho 朴正浩

Managing director, People's Motion Picture Company, 1945.

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Pak Se-yong 朴世永

Poet; member, South Korean Proletarian Art League; fled to North Korea; war correspondent, 1950; wrote poem Chinni (Truth); wrote words to Aegukka (Patriotic Song), Stalin Ui Norae (Song of Stalin), Sam'iljol Ui Norae (March First Anniversary Song) and to most of the North Korean operas.

Pak T'ae-yong 朴泰泳

Playwright.

Pak Ung-kol 朴雄傑

Writer; war correspondent, 1950; wrote novel Yusan (Sulfuric Acid).

Pak Yong-ho 朴英鎬

Playwright; fled to North Korea; wrote plays Hongsu (Xlood) and Piyong-ni Saramdul (The People of Piyong-ni); husband of novelist Yi Son-hui.

Sim Sam-mun 沈三文

Organized P'yongan-namdo District Proletarian Art League, 1945.

Sin Ko-song 申鼓頌

Member, South Korean Proletarian Art League, fled to North Korea.

Sin Pul-ch'ul 申不出

Comedian; fled to North Korea; war correspondent, 1950.

So Man-il 徐萬一

Playwright; wrote Sangbok Ul Posunnal (The Day the Mourning Dress Was Removed) which was about land reform in 1946; studied in the USSR.

Song Yong 宋影

Writer; member, South Korean Proletarian Art League; fled to North Korea; director, Hungnam Art Institute.

Yang Myong-mun 楊明文

Poet; chief, Literature Section, North Korean People's Committee; known as an "independent" cultural leader; wrote poem Param (Wind).

Yi Jh'an 李燦

Poet; organized Hamgyong-namdo District Proletarian Art League, 1945; chief secretary, North Korean Federation of Literature and Art, 1946; chief secretary, Korean-Soviet Cultural Society, 1946; deputy chief, Cultural Bureau, Ministry of Culture and Propaganda; wrote lyric to Kim Il-song Changgun Ui Norae (Song of General Kim Il-song); published Soryon Sich'o (Collection of Selected Poems on USSR) wrote poems Sungui Ui Kirok (The Record of Victory) and Pak Tal; stopped writing around 1948.

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Yi Chong-ku 李貞求

Poet; employed by Choson Simmun, 1946; professor, normal school, 1948; wrote poem Sae Sijol (New Season) which won fourth prize at the 1947 Art Festival.

Yi Ho-lam 李豪男

Poet.

Yi Kap-ki 李甲基

Writer; fled to North Korea.

Yi Ki-yong 李箕永

Writer; organized the Kangwon-do District Proletarian Art League, 1945; chairman, North Korean Federation of Literature and Art, 1946; wrote novel, Ttang (Land) which won first prize in the 1948 Art Festival.

Yi Myon-sang 李冕相

Popular song writer; first composer to join the Korean Communist Party; chairman, North Korean Music League; member, North Korean People's Assembly; wrote musical plays Ch'unhyangjon (Ch'unhyang's Story), Kumgang-san P'al Sonnyo (The Eight Fairies of Mount Kumgang) and Kkotain (Flower Shoes); wrote music to Aegukka (Patriotic Song); Stalin Ui Norae (Song of Stalin), San Uro Pada Ro Kaja (Let's Go to the Mountains and to the Sea) and over 100 other compositions.

Yi Puk-myong 李北鳴

Writer; organized the Hamgyong-namdo District Proletarian Art League, 1945, and Hungnam Art Institute; wrote novel Hodong Ilga (A Working Family) which won first prize in fiction at the 1947 Art Festival.

Yi So-hyang 李曙御

Fled to North Korea; became a war correspondent, 1950.

Yi Sok-chin 李夕津

Organized P'yongan-namdo District Proletarian Art League, 1945.

Yi Son-hui 李善熙

Novelist; wife of playwright Pak Yong-ho; died [date not given].

Yi T'ae-chun 李泰俊

Novelist; member, Seoul Central Council for Cultural Construction; fled to North Korea, 1946; vice-chairman, North Korean Federation of Literature and Art; wrote novel Nongt'o (Farmland), short story Ch'otchont'u (First Battle), Soryon Kihang (USSR Travelogue) and Kkotnamu nun Simo Nok'o (The Flowering Tree Is Planted).

Yi Tong-kyu 李東圭

Short story writer; member, South Korean Proletarian Art League, fled to North Korea; taught at normal college; became war correspondent, 1950; reported killed in action, 1950.

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Yi Won-cho 李源朝

Organized the Seoul Central Council for Cultural Construction.

Yi Won-u 李園友Poet; organized the P'yongan-pukto District Proletarian Art League, 1945; became captain, North Korean Army 1950; wrote poems Kyokyu (Torrent), and Musong Hanun Norae (Song of Prosperity).Yim Ha 林河Playwright; employed by Choson Sinmun; Soviet Korean.Yim Hwa (Alias Yang Nam-su) 林和

Poet; organized the Seoul Central Council for Cultural Construction, Seoul; fled to North Korea; printed clandestine newspaper in Haeju for distribution in South Korea; war correspondent, 1950; [reported purged August 1953].

Yu Chong-sop 柳鍾燮

Singer; brewery manager, 1947; manager, State-Operated Printing Office. No 2, 1948.

Yu Hang-yim 俞恒林Satirist; P'yongyang Society of Art and Culture, 1945; member, P'yongyang City Assembly; wrote Hwitnallinun T'aegukki (Waving T'aegukki).Yu Kwang-tok 劉光德

Musician; member, P'yongyang Society of Art and Culture, 1945.

Yun Ki-sok 尹基鼎

Member, South Korean Proletarian Art League; fled to North Korea.

Yun Se-chung 尹世重

Writer; North Korean Army captain, 1950.

Yun Tu-hon (aliases Yun Kwang, Hiranuma Bunpo) 尹斗憲

Critic and scenarist.

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